Attorney Docket No.: 031016

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizoguchi

et al. (USP 5,841,466, previously cited) in view of Ito (U.S. Patent Publication No.

2001/0021979)

Claims 1-4 have been amended to recite "means (a circuit) for onscreen displaying... a

password entry screen..." and "means (a circuit) for comparing the password entered on the

password entry screen...".

In accordance with the presently claimed invention, when the power to the liquid crystal

projector is turned on in the state where a password is registered, the password entry screen is

onscreen displayed. This will make people around the liquid crystal projector recognize that this

liquid crystal projector is protected by a password. In other words, it would be recognized more

clearly that this liquid crystal projector could not be used even if it were stolen. This will

contribute to reducing the risk of the liquid crystal projector being stolen.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Mizoguchi et al. nor Ito disclose or suggest the

presently recited "means (a circuit) for onscreen displaying... a password entry screen..." and

"means (a circuit) for comparing the password entered on the password entry screen...".

- 6 -

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 Attorney Docket No.: 031016

Application No. 10/644,068

Art Unit: 2629

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 patentably distinguish over the

combination of Mizoguchi et al. and Ito for at least these reasons.

Furthermore, the presently claimed invention includes the feature of the "determining

circuit (means) to determine a number of times an erroneous password is entered and inhibiting

operation of the liquid crystal projector by the operation unit (means) in response to determining

that the number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of

times". This feature further enhances deterrence of theft of the liquid crystal projector.

In the previous Office Action, the Mizoguchi et al. reference was applied against the

claims under §102. In the current Office Action, the Examiner has combined Mizoguchi et al.

with Ito to reject the claims under §103.

The Examiner applies the Mizoguchi et al. reference against claims 1-4 to teach the exact

same claim elements as in the previous Office Action mailed January 12, 2006. The Mizoguchi

et al. reference was discussed in detail in the previous response, and a detailed discussion will

not be reiterated here.

The Examiner recognizes that Mizoguchi et al. do not teach the claimed "determining

circuit (determining means) to determine a number of times an erroneous password is entered

and to inhibit operation of the liquid crystal projector by the operation unit in response to

determining that the number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined

number of times", as recited in claims 1-4. See Office Action, page 3, lines 3-4 and page 4, lines

18-19.

The Examiner relies on Ito to teach the features missing from Mizoguchi et al.

- 7 -

Attorney Docket No.: 031016

Ito discloses an image processing apparatus, such as a color copying apparatus, which can

identify a person who performs an illegal copying or printing operation (e.g., forgery of

banknotes). Ito teaches a card reader (see section [0147]) that first identifies whether a card ID

and a customer ID read from a credit card are registered (see section [0148] and [0149]), and then

requests that a user enter a password (see section [0151]) if it is determined that the card ID and

the customer ID are registered.

When it is determined that the entered password does not match the customer ID, a

message such as "Wrong Password" is displayed to request reentry of the password buy the user.

If the user enters the wrong password three times in succession, the Ito system inhibits the use

of the credit card corresponding to the customer ID. See section [0153].

The Examiner asserts "It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time of the invention to add an additional circuit to determine a number of times an erroneous

password is entered and to inhibit operation of the display of Mizoguchi in response to

determining that the number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined

number of times as taught by Ito in order to prevent an unauthorized user from guessing at the

password repeatedly." See Office Action, page 3, lines 7-13.

However, it is respectfully submitted that Ito does not alleviate the deficiencies of

Mizoguchi et al. because Ito does not disclose or suggest "inhibiting operation of the liquid

crystal projector by the operation means in response to determining that the number of times an

erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of times."

-8-

Art Unit: 2629

Attorney Docket No.: 031016

Ito teaches inhibiting use of the credit card used to access the printer/copier in response to

determining an erroneous password has been entered three (3) times. However, Ito does not

disclose or suggest inhibiting operation of a liquid crystal projector by an operation means in

response to determining an erroneous password has been entered a predetermined number of

times.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of references does not disclose

or suggest the claimed "determining circuit (determining means) to determine a number of times

an erroneous password is entered and to inhibit operation of the liquid crystal projector by the

operation unit in response to determining that the number of times an erroneous password is

entered exceeds a predetermined number of times". Accordingly, claims 1-4 patentably

distinguish over the combination of Mizoguchi et al. and Ito for these additional reasons.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all

pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the

rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application,

the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated

below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

-9-

Application No. 10/644,068
Art Unit: 2629

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No.: 031016

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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WMS/dlt